

Animal Welfare and Current Industry Issues Seminar for Livestock Producers, Feb. 7

As the world population continues to grow; safe and wholesome food production remains a top priority. It is essential livestock producers make themselves familiar with the perceptions and perspectives of animal welfare in relation to consumers, retailers, and advocacy groups. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension is presenting four seminars across Nebraska, “Animal Welfare and Current Industry Issues for Livestock Producers” to address these issues. The seminars also will provide information on the most current industry issues. A seminar will be held in Lincoln on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at UNL East Campus Union, 33rd and Holdrege. Registration is at 9:30 am and the program is 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Speakers include: Dr. Candace Croney, Purdue University; Dr. Dan Tompson and Dr. Glynn Tonsor, both from Kansas State University; and Mr. Jim Robb from the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Early bird registration before Feb. 1 is \$50 per person and \$25 for each additional person from the same operation; registration at the door is \$60 per person, and \$30 for each additional person from the same operation. Price includes meal. For more information and registration form, go to <http://richardson.unl.edu> or contact Lindsay Chichester at 402-245-4324.



Free Pasture Management School, Feb. 8

UNL Extension in Lancaster County present a free “Pasture Management School” on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Featured speaker will be UNL Extension Forages Specialist Dr. Bruce Anderson.

Topics will include:

- Plant mixtures for a new seeding
- Fertilizing pastures
- Weed control (proper grazing and herbicides)
- Rotational grazing/cross fencing
- Livestock water — location, quantity, and quality

The evening will conclude with a spokesman from the new Tri-County Prescribed Burn Association who will talk about their association.

For more information, contact Tom Dorn or Karen Wedding at 402-441-7180.



Cornhusker Economics Conference, Feb. 28

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension and the UNL Department of Agricultural Economics are proud to present their 7th annual “Cornhusker Economics Management and Outlook Conference” series across Nebraska. Register and participate in one of this year’s conferences to hear UNL ag economists and educators team up with leading ag economists specialists from across the region to discuss the ag situation and outlook for 2012.

A conference will be held in Lincoln on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 4:30–9 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road. Register by Feb. 21. For more information, contact Brad Lubben at 402-472-2235. The cost for each conference is \$25, which covers refreshments, meal, and all conference materials. Other locations include Columbus, Clay Center, North Platte, and Alliance. Brochures with registration forms are online at <http://agecon.unl.edu/cemoc>.



Mid-Winter to Spring Grain Storage Management

Tom Dorn
UNL Extension Educator

We had a good fall for harvesting and drying grain in 2011. Hopefully, you were able to get the grain dried to safe moisture content (15% for corn; 13% for soybeans) in October and November. I also hope you remembered to cool the grain as air temperature allowed. A rule of thumb is, at a given grain moisture content, the shelf life of corn is about twice as long for every 10°F lower temperature down to about 40°F. I do not recommend taking the grain temperature below freezing, however, because we want to leave open the possibility to do some additional aeration if we happen to get a few days of warmer temperatures in January or February.

Winter and Spring Aeration Management

If the forecast calls for a warm spell with low humidity, many producers who did not get their grain as dry as they wanted, will decide to take advantage of the good weather and turn the aeration fan on to do more drying. However, you might actually add moisture content to the grain initially depending on the grain temperature. For example: when air temperature is 50°F and the relative humidity is 50%, the dew point temperature is 32°F. Likewise, if the air temperature is 50°F and the relative humidity is 60%, the dew point temperature is 37°F. The point is, when the grain temperature is lower than the dew point temperature, the air will condense moisture onto the grain until the air stream warms the grain mass above the dew point temperature.

If the grain temperature is

below freezing, the condensation can be in the form of frost which will add moisture to the grain bin and the frost can impede airflow through the grain.

Check Your Stored Grain

Bins should be checked monthly through the winter months, especially if high winds might have carried blowing snow into the bin. The danger is, the snow will melt and create a wet spot in the grain which could set the stage for spoilage and insect activity when warmer temperatures return in the spring.

When you check grain in a bin, open the access hatch, then start the aeration fan. Climb up and lean into the access hatch as soon as possible after turning on the fan so you can feel and smell the air as it hits you in the face. You are looking for four things that could signal trouble:

- Do you smell a musty odor?
- Is the air exhausting from the bin warmer than expected?
- Can you feel moisture on your face as you lean into the access hatch?
- Is there condensation forming on the underside of the bin roof on a cold day?

If you detect any of these conditions, the fan(s) should run long enough to bring the entire grain mass to a uniformly cool temperature inside the bin. The best way to tell if the grain temperature is uniform is to use a grain thermometer pushed three or four feet into the grain. Probe a couple of feet away from the bin wall, taking the temperature every 15 to 20 feet around the perimeter of the bin and at least three spots in the central part of the bin. If there are two spots differing in temperature by more than about 8°F, turn on the aeration fan and push air through the bin until a *see GRAIN STORAGE on page 11*

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Opportunities

Federal and state law states a private pesticide applicator must be certified and licensed to buy, use, or supervise the use of a Restricted-Use Pesticide (RUP) to produce an agricultural commodity on property they own or rent — or — on an employer’s property if the applicator is an employee of the farmer. No pesticide license is needed if the applicator will only be applying General Use Pesticides (GUPs) or if you hire a commercial applicator to apply RUPs to your property.

If you do not have a current private pesticide certification and you plan to buy or apply any RUP products, you will need to receive the same certification training as described below for people who need to be recertified. All training sessions meet the requirements

for both initial certification or recertification as private pesticide applicators.

If your private applicator certification expires in 2012, you will receive (or have already received) a notification letter from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA). Be sure to keep the letter from NDA and bring it with you to the training session you choose or when you pick up home-study materials. The NDA letter contains a bar-code form which tells NDA what they need to know about you.

Regardless of the certification method chosen, all applicants will receive an invoice from the NDA for the \$25 license fee. Note: we cannot collect the license fee at the extension office. The certification and license is good for

three years, expiring on April 15, 2015 for those who certify this spring. You should receive your new license within three weeks.

Private pesticide applicators will have four alternative methods to obtain either recertification or initial certification.

Traditional Training Sessions, Jan. 28 & Feb. 16

Private pesticide applicator training sessions will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road in Lincoln:

- Saturday, Jan. 28, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30–9:30 p.m.

A \$30 extension training fee will be collected at the training

session (make checks out to Lancaster County Extension).

Self-Study Option

The second option is to pick up the self-study book and associated materials at the extension office. You are expected to read the chapters, then you must answer the written test questions in the back of the book. When you bring the book back to the office, the test will be graded by our staff while you wait (usually about five minutes). You will have an opportunity to see the test results and see the correct answers to any questions you have answered incorrectly.

The \$60 training fee for this method of obtaining certification will be collected when the home-study book is picked up.

Testing Option

The third option is to take a written (closed-book) examination given by the NDA. Please contact NDA at 402-471-2394 for dates of testing. There is no training fee if you choose this option. You will need to pay the \$25 license fee. You should receive your new license within two weeks after you receive a passing grade on your written test.

Certify at a Crop Production Clinic

Private applicators may receive initial certification or recertification by attending one of Extension’s Crop Production Clinics held in January. This year’s clinics will be over by the time this NEBLINE is published.